TAX ON ARECANUTS

735. Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) from what date they began collecting tax on arecanut;

(*b*) the amount collected in the 1120;

(*c*) whether they have received representations against the levy of this tax and if so from whom;

(*d*) whether they have taken any steps in pursuance of the above representations (if any);

(*e*) whether they know the rate of tax imposed in Travancore?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Secretary to Government)* :

(*a*) The duty is levied with effect from 1 st April 1944 but actual collection began only from 14th December 1944.

(*b*) Rs. 8,32,134—10—9.

(*c*) Yes. From growers, curers, dealers, and other interested persons belonging to the different localities, especially Trichur and Talappalli Taluks.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes. 1 anna 6 pies per pound.

HOARDING AND PROFITEERING INSPECTOR—MUKUNDAPURAM TALUK

736. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there is anybody acting as Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Inspector in Mukundapuram Taluk at present;

(*b*) are the merchants allowed to sell goods they have purchased before it is checked by the H. & P. P. Inspector;

(*c*) will the Government be pleased to state whether it has been realised by the Government that great difficulties are experienced by the people because of not getting necessary articles:

(*d*) is it not a fact that "Neelam" and other articles are not sold by these dealers, because the H. & P. P. Inspector has not checked it?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) All articles excepting some of those included in the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1120 and certain other articles which are scarce in the market are allowed to be sold before the consignments of such articles are got checked by the H. & P. P. Inspector.

(*c*) Government are aware of the scarcity for some foreign importe articles like Robin Blue, fountain pens, watches, time-pieces, clocks, Thermoflasks, black Leadpencils, Cuticura soaps and powder, Portugal slate pencils etc. Since the imports of such articles are governed by factors beyond the control of this Government they could only afford facilities to the State dealers for the procurement of such articles from outside.

(*d*) Neelam (Imported variety) is received directly by only a few dealers in the Mukundapuram Taluk from Messrs, Parry & Co. Such arrivals and also stocks of Neelam arranged to be diverted from other taluks to this Taluk are often redistributed among the retail dealers dispersed throughout the Taluk so as to make an equitable distribution of the available stock to all the consumers in the taluk, Since the stock position of the imported variety of Robin Blue is very unsatisfactory it is necessary that the stocks received by the main dealers are got varified by the H & P. P. staff to examine the correctness of the weight, quality, etc, of the consignments and also to give disposal advice for the proper distribution of the article. Specific instructions have been issued to avoid delay in the discharge of the above work. Complaints on this score have not been received till now. The matter is however, being looked into now.

FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE—T. A. AND D. A.

737 Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

The amount of T. A. and D. A. Claimed and disbursed to the members of the last Food Advisory Committee of the Talappalli Taluk from the date of its constitution till the date of its dissolution?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: The T. A. and D. A. claimed by the members of the Committee amount to Rs. 932-13-0. But no amount has been actually disbursed owing to interim correspondence.

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